

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**March 18, 2003**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Forest.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, and Forest

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Ward 7, stated:

One of the things I didn’t touch on the last time I was in here, you guys remember your chart on your feasibility study for the ballpark. You were showing how much revenue was going to be coming in from the rental of the park...leasing of the park, taxes from the \$40 million or so for the down there. If you got to draw one little line, and I’ll call it soft cost; the Police Chief was looking at a quarter of a million dollars for outside traffic details for the civic center for a year. Be sure to factor in some soft costs like that for the ballpark, probably somewhere around that same figure, a quarter of a million dollars. There’s probably more soft costs involved, so you’re anticipated additional revenue is probably going to dwindle down some. A couple of things that were in the paper the last couple of days about the building and sites committee from the school department looking at the renovation plans that

they're going to do and how they're going to work at them now since Bedford has opted out. And the other thing that was in the paper yesterday, I don't know if it's coming before you guys tonight or not, about a \$110 million bond for that work on the schools. I guess the Mayor wants you to refer it to the finance committee, it will probably be tabled. Don't count on anything happening. I think you ought to learn that once you cast the vote, it's out there. It's gone. And it's very hard to bring that vote back. If you're not sure about something always cast a no vote. If they want your vote to come around again, you've got more time to study it and then you cast a yes vote once you've had the adequate time to study the proposal. But once you cast a yes vote and it goes on, you can't bring it back. I think you're seeing that Alderman Garrity with the senior center. Again, for all of you that voted in favor of the senior center on the west side, I can only say that for the three of you from the west side, I've got to see that as a political move to get the votes you need from the seniors for this fall. But for guys like myself and the ladies in the same age bracket in the 50's, we're going to be the seniors in 30 years, your senior center over there is going to be way to small.

Maureen Molly Lee Sherman, 444 Chestnut Street, Ward 3, stated:

I heard you cut the budget on the library, however, it has been especially cold, why was the library budget cut? You're using dirt instead of sand and that was not \$80,000 worth of snow removal and once again Mayor Robert Baines and the Welfare Commissioner should not get raises. They don't need them. Manchester's broke after paying as they pay bills, can't afford building up Singer Park, still paying off Civic Arena.

Joseph Levasseur, 866 Elm Street, Ward 3:

Mayor I'm not here to give you a hard time. You had a bad enough week last week with Bedford leaving the way they did. With the dramatic effect of the vote that would have been taken tonight, but Bedford made it's decision to not join in with the tuition agreement and that was probably the biggest fear that the concerned taxpayers and the citizens of Manchester had. And for a lot of you Aldermen, Bedford was the wildcard in all of this and we've seen even before we agreed to that tuition, they were going to pull out, and they did. So, it kind of actually helped us that they did what they did so we didn't go out and spend all that money for those additions that I didn't think were necessary. I would like to say that after the parade on Sunday from 1pm to 6pm, Manchester City Republican Committee is going to be having a St. Patrick's Day bash, corned beef and cabbage...matter of fact, thank you Dan O'Neil for the parade and all the work you've done on that. I've been downtown for a long time, it's a very good parade, I hope a lot of people obviously come out for the parade and if you want to stop in to Joe Kelley's the price will be \$12.00 and it's all you can eat, all fresh made. And a portion of the proceeds will be going to the Manchester Soup Kitchen. So we are raising money to try to help the soup kitchen this year. Everybody's invited and if you're down at the parade, feel free to stop in.

John Latsha, 10 Gantry Street, stated:

I would like to talk a little bit about the baseball stadium. I don't know if anybody saw the article that was in the Boston Herald about a month or so ago. I'd like to read a little highlight from the article. "Is obtaining Red Sox approval may be the least of the challenges facing Manchester's grand plan, one top sports business expert said. Andrew Zambalast, a noted Smith College sports economist, said he expects the Sox to agree to the Raven's move, even though the team's a farm club for the Toronto Blue Jays. But Zambalast said he is skeptical that a new stadium and franchise will provide enough of an economic spark to lift a \$100 million urban renewal project." Now we pay all these consultants and stuff, thousands and thousands of dollars. Why don't we pay somebody like Mr. Zambalast to come down here and tell us why he feels as an expert why baseball won't work in the City of Manchester. That's something to think about. Secondly, I'd like to talk about the glycol smell over in Ward 8. I live in Ward 8. I don't usually smell it until probably I get within a mile or two of the airport. The glycol is caused by the deicing of the airplanes at the Manchester Airport. I read in the paper today that Cohas Brook is being tested for the over abundance glycol in the brook itself. It seems to me like it's a cheap way out for the Manchester Airport to just dump this stuff down the drain into our brooks and soil. I know they say it's environmental friendly, but they say that a lot about other things and then years and years go by and it turns out to be a hazard. I'd just like to read this real quick. "The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority is entering into a contract with AR Plus Site Services. The Hamilton area company that specializes in glycol cleanup and the collection and treatment of glycol, to address resident's continued complaints about the stench that comes from the chemical. They have implemented a vacuum cleaning system on Buffalo International Airport's runway including the cargo carrier service. The system is designed to remove glycol, the chemical used to de-ice airplanes from the runway before ends up into storm water collection areas. The technique is similar to the ones in place at cold weather airports in Hartford, Providence, and Hamilton. According to Doug Huntmeyer, the public affairs officer with the airport, the vacuum has worked well. The vacuum has the capability of collecting more than 70% of glycol used before it gets into the airports collection system." Mrs. DeVries, I think you should look into this as well as everybody else on the Airport Committee. This is a serious issue for Ward 8 and appreciate the extra time.

Rona Zlokower, 161 North Adams Street, stated:

I am here tonight representing Manchester Citizens for Quality Education as well as myself as a taxpayer. Because of the School Board meeting we've divided up our representation tonight, so Kathy Stooze is at the School Board and I am here. Mayor Baines we're very pleased that you and the Building Department and school officials are working diligently on moving forward the building proposals for renovations and additions to Manchester schools in spite of Bedford's action. There appears to be a great deal of movement towards that end, and we're very pleased about that. We are very concern, however, that there was a suggestion in the newspaper this week that a \$2.2 million bonding for the new Derryfield

Country Club needs to be voted on as a capital improvement project, and that you might be waiving normal procedure and not holding a public hearing for that bonding. We feel that it's very important that if that is the case, that that not be the case, and that it goes through public hearing procedure as would the school bonding discussion. I'm not sure, but it was suggested to me that the school bonding needs to go through three meetings...needs to be on the agenda for three meetings before it's actually voted on and we would hope that would be the same case for any other capital improvement project or bonding project. When we pay our taxes we expect trash removal, snow removal, police-fire protection, and that our schools be taken care of, both maintenance and renovation as needed. We feel that it would send a very bad signal from all of you to Manchester community if schools are not as important as the civic center project, the baseball team, or a country club project. In fact, if the schools were very important we would hope that you might find a way to fast track that as soon as possible.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on a motion by Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on a motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk